

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 IO-11 SAJ-01 EB-07 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7218

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BONN 04247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV GW GE WB US UK FR UR

SUBJECT: REICHSBAHN CONSTRUCTION IN WEST BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 4191; (B) USBER 493

BEGIN SUMMARY. BONN GROUP REPS HAVE AGREED THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SENAT SHOULD INFORM THE GDR OF ALLIED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AN INTERMEDIARY FROM THE REICHSBAHN FOR OBTAINING THE REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY OUT CONSTRUCTION WORK IN WEST BERLIN. BERLIN MISSIONS ARE REQUESTED TO ASK THE SENAT TO CONFIRM A MEETING OF SENAT AND GDR TRANSPORT OFFICIALS FOR MARCH 17 AND TO PROVIDE THE SENAT OFFICIAL WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MEETING. GAUS WILL INFORM SEIDEL OF THE PLAN ON MARCH 15. END SUMMARY.

1. AT TRIPARTITE MEETING AT 3:00 P.M., MARCH 12, ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS AGREED TO INFORM THE FRG THAT THE ALLIES COULD ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL THAT A REPRESENTATIVE
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OF THE SENAT INFORM THE GDR OF THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL

BY WHICH THE REICHSBAHN MIGHT APPLY FOR ALLIED AUTHORIZATION VIA AN INTERMEDIARY. THEY AGREED THAT IT MIGHT BE MOST LOGICAL FOR KUNZE TO CONVEY THE INFORMATION TO MITDANK.

2. AS MEICHSNER HAD SUGGESTED AT THE MORNING BONN GROUP MEETING REPORTED IN REF (A) THAT GAUS MIGHT GO BACK TO SEIDEL TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE SENAT-GDR APPROACH DECIDED UPON WOULD BE FRUITFUL, ALLIED REPS ALSO AGREED IT SHOULD BE PUT TO THE FRG TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS INTERMEDIATE STEP SHOULD BE TAKEN.

3. BEFORE FULL BONN GROUP RECONVENED AT 5:30 P.M., FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) INFORMED US THAT, HAVING CONTACTED PARIS AFTER TRIPARTITE MEETING, HE WAS UNABLE TO AGREE TO AN APPROACH TO MITDANK (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF OBJECTIONS TO DIRECT SENAT-FOREIGN MINISTRY DEALINGS ON THIS SUBJECT). HE ASKED, THEREFORE, THAT US REP, WHO WAS CHAIRING BONN GROUP MEETING, NOT REPORT FULL ALLIED AGREEMENT TO AN APPROACH AT THAT LEVEL.

4. AT BONN GROUP MEETING, US REP STATED WILLINGNESS OF US TO AUTHORIZE THE SENAT TO CONVEY THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL TO THE GDR, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SENAT WOULD NOT ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SUBJECT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE CHANNEL TO BE USED FOR THE APPROACH BE LEFT FOR DETERMINATION BETWEEN THE BERLIN MISSIONS AND THE SENAT, NOTING THAT THERE WERE ADVANTAGES BOTH TO A KUNZE-MITDANK APPROACH AND TO USE OF THE LINSSENMAIER-FUNK CHANNEL (REF B). HE ALSO ASKED THE OPINION OF THE FRG REP ON THE DESIRABILITY OF ANOTHER GAUS-SEIDEL MEETING.

5. BOISSIEU SAID THAT THE REACTION IN PARIS TO THE GAUS PROPOSAL WAS DISTINCTLY COOL, BUT THAT HE COULD ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE ON CONDITION THAT THE SENAT DEMARCHE BE MADE AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. HE ADDED THAT IF THERE WERE A NEGATIVE ANSWER FROM THE GDR, OR NO ANSWER AT ALL WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE WOULD BE FACED WITH AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH WE HAD BURNED ALMOST ALL BRIDGES.

6. UK REP (HITCH) STATED THAT LONDON AGREED TO PROCEEDING ALONG LINES OUTLINED BY THE US REP. THE UK ENVISAGED THAT NOTHING LESS THAN AN APPROACH TO MITDANK WOULD SUCCEED, BUT HE AGREED THAT THE MISSIONS AND THE SENAT SHOULD HAVE DISCRETION.

7. MEICHSNER IMPLIED THAT SEIDEL HAD INTIMATED TO GAUS THAT THE APPROACH WOULD HAVE TO BE TO MITDANK, BUT WHEN PRESSED BOTH HE AND HENZE SAID THAT THIS HAD NOT ACTUALLY BEEN SPECIFIED BY SEIDEL.

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HENZE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED SOME SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO CLARIFY THE REPORT GIVEN IN THE MORNING SESSION (REF A) AND THAT IT APPEARED THAT STRUVE'S NAME HAD COME UP IN THE GAUS-SEIDEL CONVERSATION. BECAUSE STRUVE IS AN INTERLOCUTOR OF MITDANK'S, IT COULD BE ASSUMED THAT SEIDEL EXPECTED THE APPROACH TO BE TO MITDANK. MEICHSNER THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT, IF IT SHOULD BE DECIDED THAT THE SENAT APPROACH WOULD BE AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL, THAT GAUS FIRST GET SEIDEL'S REACTION.

8. US, UK, AND FRG REPS WERE ALL OF THE OPINION THAT

THE PROPOSED APPROACH SHOULD BE AT THE MITDANK LEVEL,
ON THE THEORY THAT, HAVING DECIDED TO GO THIS FAR, WE
SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ASSURE ITS SUCCESS.
NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE FRENCH INSTRUCTIONS, THE
BONN GROUP DECIDED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO AUTHORIZE
AN APPROACH AT THE "TECHNICAL LEVEL" THAN TO DELAY
FURTHER.

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9. THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO WAS THEREFORE AGREED UPON:

A. THE SENAT WILL BE ASKED ON MONDAY MORNING TO
SEND A TELEX, AGREEING THAT SENAT TRANSPORT EXPERT
LINSENMAIER COULD MEET WITH FUNK OF THE GDR TRANSPORT
MINISTRY ON WED, MARCH 17. (IT WAS UNDERSTOOD
THAT THE SENAT HAD ALREADY RESPONDED TO THE INVITATION
REPORTED IN REF (B) WITH A TELEX REFUSING THE REQUEST
FOR A MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 15.)

B. GAUS, WHO IS IN ANY CASE SEEING SEIDEL AT
THE LEIPZIG FAIR ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 15, WILL
TELL HIM THAT THE ALLIES HAVE AGREED TO AUTHORIZE THE
SENAT TO DONVEY THEIR COMPROMISE PROPOSAL DIRECTLY TO
THE GDR. GAUS WILL STATE THAT THE SENAT HAS ALREADY
INFORMED THE GDR OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO HAVE THE
LINSENMAIER-FUNK MEETING, REQUESTED BY THE GDR, ON
MARCH 17, AND THAT LINSENMAIER WILL CONVEY THE INFORMA-
TION AT HHAT TIME.

C. GAUS WILL NOT ASK SEIDEL'S APPROVAL OF THIS
PLAN. IF, HOWEVER, SEIDEL TELLS HIM THE APPROACH AT
THE ENVISAGED LEVEL WILL NOT WORK, THE
LINSENMAIER MEETING WILL BE CANCELLED.

10. THE BONN GROUP THEN REACHED AGREEMENT
ON A TEXT TO GIVE LINSENMAIER AS A "MANDATE" FOR HIS APPROACH
TO FUNK. WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS, THE TEXT IS
ESSENTIALLY WHAT WE ARE TOLD GAUS PRESENTED TO
SEIDEL ON MARCH 11. HENZE HAD ALSO LEARNED DURING THE
AFTERNOON OF MARCH 12 THAT SEIDEL HAD AGREED THAT THE
GAUS-SEIDEL CONVESATION COULD BE MENTIONED IN THE
SENAT-GDR APPROACH, AND THIS ITEM WAS THUS INCLUDED IN THE "MANDATE."

11. AFTER OPENING WITH A DISCLAIMER OF COMPETENCE
TO NEGOTIATE THE MATTER, LINSENMAIER SHOULD MAKE THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

" WITH REFERENCE TO THE GAUS-SEIDEL CONVERSATION,

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I AM IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THAT IN THIS CASE
THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MIGHT BE OBSERVED:

"-- THE REICHSBAHN WILL GIVE THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS
EXPEDITIOUSLY TO MESSRS. SELIGER AND WERNER
REQUESTING THEM TO OBTAIN THE AUTHORIZATION OF
THE COMPETENT ALLIED AUTHORITIES WHICH IS NECESSARY
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

"-- MESSRS. SELIGER AND WERNER WILL FORWARD THE
DOCUMENTS AND THE REQUEST FOR AN AUTHORIZATION TO
THE COMPETENT ALLIED AUTHORITIES.

"--THE COMPETENT ALLIED AUTHORITIES WILL EXAMINE
THE DOCUMENTS AND GRANT THE AUTHORIZATION TO THE
REICHSBAHN IF ALL THE RELEVANT CONDITIONS HAVE
BEEN FULFILLED."

12. COMMENT: AT MID-AFTERNOON TRIPARTITE MEETING,
ALLIED REPS AGREED THAT WE WERE NEARING THE END OF OUR
ABILITY TO COMPROMISE. BOISSIEU ARGUED THAT AGREEMENT
TO THE SENAT-GDR APPROACH SHOULD BE GIVEN ONLY SUBJECT
TO MAJOR CONDITIONS, INCLUDING AGREEMENT ON WHAT ACTION
WOULD BE TAKEN IF THE APPROACH FAILED AND ON THE
NECESSITY FOR PROMPT ACTION ON THE PART OF THE
REICHSBAHN, WITHOUT FURTHER STALLING. WHILE BOTH US
AND UK REPS AGREED THAT THE TIME FOR DECISION WAS
APPROACHING, UK REP (HITCH) SAID THAT HE STRONGLY --
AND REGRETFULLY -- SUSPECTED THAT LONDON
WOULD ALLOW ANOTHER SMALL SLICE OF SALAMI TO BE LOST.
NEVERTHELESS, HE AGREED THAT AFTER GOING THROUGH THIS
HOOP IT WOULD BE HARD NOT TO ORDER A WORK STOPPAGE AND
AGREED THAT THIS POSSIBILITY SHOULD BE CONTEMPLATED.
HE STILL FELT, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO
TRY TO SKETCH OUT A FIRM SCENARIO AT THIS POINT.

13. NEAR END OF EVENING BONN GROUP SESSION, WE
RECEIVED WHAT MAY BE AN ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT THE
SCENARIO JUST AGREED UPON MIGHT SUCCEED, IN THAT THE
SENAT HAD JUST RECEIVED A REPLY TO THE TELEX IN WHICH
IT HAD TURNED DOWN THE REQUEST FOR A MARCH 15
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LINSENMAIER-FUNK MEETING. THE GDR PROPOSED MARCH 17

AS AN ALTERNATE DATE AND OFFERED TO HAVE THE MEETING
IN WEST BERLIN IF NECESSARY. THIS OBVIATES THE NEED
FOR THE SENAT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING THE
MEETING.

14. ALL THREE ALLIED REPS HAVE GIVEN AGREEMENT TO THE
PROPOSED SCENARIO AS BEING CONSISTENT WITH THEIR
EXISTING INSTRUCTIONS. AS THE FONOFF DOES NOT SEND
INSTRUCTIONS TO GAUS, THE FRG REP WILL HAVE TO
SEEK THE CONCURRENCE OF THE CHANCELLERY ON THE MORNING
OF MARCH 13 FOR GAUS TO BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE THE
FOLLOW-UP APPROACH TO SEIDEL, BUT THE CHANCELLERY WILL
PRESUMABLY APPROVE.

15. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE
USBER'S JOINING IN ALLIED ACTION TO INSTRUCT THE SENAT
ALONG THE LINES INDICATED IN PARAS 9-11 ABOVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, POLICIES, AGREEMENT DRAFT, RAILROADS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN04247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760094-0980
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760368/aaaachvr.tel
Line Count: 298
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BONN 4191
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <01 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REICHSBAHN CONSTRUCTION IN WEST BERLIN
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GE, GC, WB, US, UK, FR, UR
To: STATE USBERLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006